

## REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Office Action mailed June 11, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

### **Present Status of Patent Application**

Claims 1-12, 14-18, and 21-28 are pending in the present application. Of these pending claims, claims 1, 7, and 26 have been currently amended without introduction of new matter. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

### **Indication of Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants thank Examiner for indicating that claims 10-12, 14-18, and 21-25 have been allowed, and that claims 4, 5, and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 so as to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4 in its entirety, thereby placing independent claim 1 (as well as all its dependent claims, including claims 5 and 7) in condition for allowance.

### **Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102**

#### **Statement of the Rejection**

*Claims 26-28 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Elmore et al., US Patent Publication 2006/0059107, filed 3/30/2001, published 3/16/2006 (hereinafter Elmore).*

#### **Response to the Rejection**

##### **Claim 26**

In an effort to move forward prosecution in the case, Applicants have opted to amend claim 26 so as to include subject matter from claim 4 that has been indicated as allowable.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 26 is allowable over the cited prior art (at least in currently amended form), and hereby request withdrawal of the rejection followed by allowance of the claim.

**Claims 27 and 28**

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 27 and 28 are at least allowable by law due to their dependency on allowable claim 26. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection, followed by allowance of claims 27 and 28.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103**

**Statement of the Rejection**

*Claims 1-3, 6, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elmore.*

**Response to the Rejection**

**Claim 1**

As pointed out above, Applicants have currently amended claim 1 so as to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4 in its entirety, thereby placing independent claim 1 in condition for allowance. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection, followed by allowance of claim 1.

**Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9**

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9 are at least allowable by law due to their dependency on allowable claim 1. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection, followed by allowance of these claims.

**Cited Art Made of Record**

The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

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PATENT  
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED  
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37 CFR § 1.116

### CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-12, 14-18, and 21-28 are allowable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative.

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